
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE WOMEN AND INFANT CHILDREN
FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. A wealth of research has been conducted
2 establishing a link between poverty, obesity, and poor
3 nutrition. Hawaii's low-income population must often choose
4 between paying for necessary expenses and developing a healthy
5 diet. This issue becomes especially salient when it comes to
6 the specific nutritional needs of low-income pregnant women and
7 young children who depend upon the social safety net provided by
8 the State.

9 Intimately connected to this social safety net is the state
10 of the local economy. The legislature finds that
11 diversification is key to building a stable economic base. By
12 diversifying, Hawaii can utilize its occupational talent pool,
13 create career paths and products that capitalize on Hawaii's
14 unique location and needs to shape a profile that is able to
15 withstand economic fluctuation in both national and
16 international economies. Given the State's location and



1 heritage, nowhere is economic diversification more applicable
2 than in the State's agricultural sector.

3 The legislature also finds that the United States
4 Department of Agriculture's Women and Infant Children Farmers'
5 Market Nutrition Program awarded \$19,300,000 nationwide in 2009,
6 to provide recipients of the Special Supplemental Nutrition
7 Program for Women, Infants, and Children the opportunity to
8 purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at local registered
9 farmer's markets. The current structure of this grant program
10 requires the State to match the federal administrative funds
11 allocated to them by contributing at least thirty per cent of
12 the administrative cost of the program, which typically amounts
13 to between six and ten per cent of the total award.

14 The economic effect of implementing this federal
15 partnership program would be two-fold. First, it would
16 supplement the State's social safety net by drawing down federal
17 funds to assure low-income pregnant women and children greater
18 variety and nutritive value in their food, and second, it would
19 support the agricultural sector of Hawaii's economy, since all
20 funds awarded through the Program go directly to local farmers.

21 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
22 State's matching share for the establishment and administration



H.B. NO. 731

1 of the Women and Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition
2 Program and to support diversified agriculture in the State.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 for the
6 department of health to develop and administer the Women and
7 Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; provided that
8 the department of health shall develop and submit to the Food
9 and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of
10 Agriculture a state plan describing the manner in which it
11 intends to implement, operate, and administer all aspects of the
12 Women and Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.
16

INTRODUCED BY:

John M. ...
Tou ...

Karen ...

G.I.

JAN 21 2011



Report Title:

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the State's matching share for the establishment and administration of the Women and Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and to support diversified agriculture in the State.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

